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8  
9 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
10 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

11 ROBERT SANCHEZ,  
12  
13 Plaintiff,

14 vs.

15 DEAD ROCKERS, a business entity; DEAD  
16 ROCKERS, INC., a corporation; 1090-1098  
17 E. WARDLOW, LLC, a California limited  
18 liability company;  
19 Defendants

**Case No.:**

**COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES AND  
INJUNCTIVE RELIEF FOR VIOLATIONS  
OF AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES  
ACT; CALIFORNIA UNRUH CIVIL  
RIGHTS ACT;  
CALIFORNIA DISABLED PERSONS ACT;  
GENERAL NEGLIGENCE**

20 Plaintiff ROBERT SANCHEZ complains of Defendants, DEAD ROCKERS, a  
21 business entity, DEAD ROCKERS, INC., a corporation and owner of the business known as  
22 DEAD ROCKERS, and believed to hold the business license; and, 1090-1098 E. WARDLOW,  
23 LLC, a California limited liability company and owner of the premises, building and/or the land,  
24 and alleges:

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27 //

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1 **PARTIES**

2 1. Plaintiff is a California resident with physical disabilities. The left side of his body is  
3 significantly weaker compared to the right side, likely status post a stroke incident. Both of his  
4 knee joints are bone on bone, movement is very painful, and he needs injections. He often needs  
5 to use a cane, and his back is weak due to slipped disc. Plaintiff has a Disabled Person Parking  
6 placard, issued by the state of California, and he needs to park at the shortest distance to an  
7 entrance to any building; therefore, he needs to park and must park in a demarcated handicap  
8 parking space with van access, or else he suffers serious discomfort and difficulties.

9 2. Defendants are, or were at the time of the incident, the real property owners, business  
10 operators, lessors, and/or lessees of, a business now named DEAD ROCKERS, located at 1090  
11 E. Wardlow Rd. Long Beach, CA 90807

12 Specifically, the Plaintiff is informed that Defendant DEAD ROCKERS, INC., a  
13 corporation. is the owner of the business and holder of the business license, and Defendant 1090-  
14 1098 E. Wardlow, LLC, a California limited liability company is the owner of the real property  
15 [land and/or building] underlying the business at the abovementioned business address.

16 3. Plaintiff does not know the true names of all possible Defendants, their business  
17 capacities, their ownership connection to the property and the business, or their relative  
18 responsibilities in causing the access violations herein complained of, and Plaintiff alleges a joint  
19 venture and common enterprise by all Defendants. Plaintiff is informed and believes that each of  
20 the Defendants herein is responsible in some capacity for the events and damages alleged or is a  
21 necessary party for obtaining appropriate relief. Plaintiff shall seek leave to amend the complaint  
22 to name and add other Defendants when ascertained.

23 **JURISDICTION & VENUE:**

24 4. This court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.Code  
25 § 1331 and § 1343(a)(3) & (a)(4) for violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990,  
26 42 U.S.Code § 12101, et seq.

27 5. Pursuant to pendant jurisdiction, an attendant and related cause of action, arising from  
28 the same nucleus of transactions, is also brought under California's Unruh Civil Rights Act, and

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1 the California Disabled Persons Act, which acts expressly incorporate the Americans with  
2 Disabilities Act.

3 6. Venue is proper in this court pursuant to 28 U.S.Code § 1391(b) and is founded on the  
4 fact that the real property which is the subject of this action is located in this district and that  
5 Plaintiff's causes of action arose in the district. The property address is stated in Paragraph 2.

6 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS:**

7 7. Plaintiff went to DEAD ROCKERS in or about April 2023 to make a purchase. When  
8 entering the parking lot, Plaintiff noticed that there was no handicap parking space, no signs  
9 posted to indicate the location and reservation of handicap parking, and that there was no van  
10 access space. Therefore, this condition of the parking lot denied the Plaintiff as a disabled person  
11 full and equal access and caused him difficulty and frustration.

12 8. Failing to provide full and properly maintained access to the handicap parking area  
13 amounts to a violation of the operative American with Disabilities Act Guidelines (ADAAG).  
14 Additionally, the lack of signage shows neglect and that Defendants are not implementing any  
15 policy of upkeep so as to give disabled persons practical access to the given premises and  
16 services equal to the access enjoyed by non-disabled persons, and this amounts to illegal  
17 discrimination against disabled persons who wish to patronize DEAD ROCKERS as a place of  
18 public accommodation.

19 9. Plaintiff personally encountered violations of applicable legal obligations and  
20 standards, that prevented him from full and equal access to convenient, safe, adequate and  
21 appropriate parking. Plaintiff would like to patronize this establishment again but cannot do so  
22 until the Defendants remove these barriers or obstacles to proper access equal for everyone and  
23 correct all violations of law. Plaintiff seeks to have all barriers and obstacles related to disabled  
24 persons remedied, whichever may exist, regardless of whether he personally encountered any of  
25 them.---See Doran v. 7-11; 524 F3d 1034 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir 2008), holding that once a handicapped  
26 Plaintiff encounters one barrier to equal access at a given site, he can sue to have all other  
27 barriers relating to his disability removed even if he did not personally encounter those barriers  
28 on the given occasion. Additionally, the Plaintiff believes and alleges that Defendants' failure to  
remedy and remove the specific barriers (difficulties) to access for disabled persons, as

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mentioned in Paragraph 7 above, is intentional because a) these particular barriers are obvious, and b) the Defendants, jointly and severally, exercised full control and dominion over the conditions on the land and at the business at this particular location, and therefore the lack of and barriers to full equal access for disabled persons was not mere “accidental oversight”, given that had the Defendants intended any other situation they had the means and ability to make the land and business fully compliant with the legal requirements mandated by the laws, as set forth in the causes of action below.

**I. FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION: VIOLATION OF THE AMERICANS  
WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990  
(On behalf of Plaintiff against all Defendants (42 U.S. Code § 12101, et seq.))**

10. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all prior paragraphs of this complaint.

11. Defendants own, operate, lease from or lease to a place of public accommodation commonly known as DEAD ROCKERS. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), it is an act of discrimination for any person(s) who owns, leases (or leases to), or operates a place of public accommodation to deny to disabled persons the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of any place of public accommodation. See 42 U.S. Code § 12182(a). Discrimination is defined, inter alia, including but not limited to, as follows:

a. A failure to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures, when such modifications are necessary to afford such goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations to individuals with disabilities, unless the entity can demonstrate that making such modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of such goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations. 42 U.S. Code § 12182(b)(2)(A)(ii).

b. A failure to remove architectural barriers, and communication barriers that are structural in nature, in existing facilities,...where such removal is readily achievable. See 42 U.S. Code § 12182(b)(2)(A)(iv). Barriers can be defined by

reference to the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG), found at 28 Code Federal Regulations, Part 36, Appendix D.

c. A failure to design and construct facilities for first occupancy, if later than 30 months after July 26, 1990, that are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, except where an entity can demonstrate that it is structurally impracticable to meet the requirements of such subsection in accordance with standards set forth or incorporated by reference in regulations issued under this subchapter. 42 U.S. Code § 12183(a)(1).

12. Defendants are persons or business entities that own, operate, or lease a place of public accommodation. Defendants are required to avoid discrimination and have specific duties to (1) ensure that all construction, alteration, or modification is barrier-free as to disabled persons and complies with the currently operative Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG); and/or (2) remove all existing barriers to disabled persons where such removal is readily achievable, and/or (3) to provide alternatives to barrier removal for the benefit of the disabled persons so that they do enjoy equal access at places of public accommodation. The Defendants have failed to meet these obligations. Consequently, Plaintiff is entitled to court-ordered relief against the Defendants, to make sure that within six months from the beginning of this action the Defendants render their public accommodation premises fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

**II. SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION: VIOLATION OF THE UNRUH  
CIVIL RIGHTS ACT  
(On behalf of Plaintiff and against all Defendants (Cal Civil Code § 51-53))**

13. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all prior paragraphs of this complaint.

14. Because Defendants violated Plaintiff's rights under the ADA, they also violated the Unruh Civil Rights Act and are liable for damages. Civil Code § 51(f), 52(a).

15. Because the violation of the Unruh Civil Rights Act resulted in difficulty, discomfort, and embarrassment for the Plaintiff, the Defendants are also responsible for statutory damages, i.e., civil penalties See Civil Code § 51(f), 52(a).

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1                   **III.     THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION: VIOLATION OF THE CALIFORNIA**  
2                                   **DISABLED PERSONS ACT**  
3                   **(On behalf of Plaintiff and against all Defendants (Civil Code § 54, 54.1, 54.2))**

4                   16. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all prior  
5 paragraphs of this complaint.

6                   17. Because Defendants violated the Plaintiff's rights under the ADA, they also violated  
7 the California Disabled Persons Act, thus liable for damages. Civil Code § 51(f), 52(a), 54.1(d).

8                   18. Because the violation of the Disabled Persons Act resulted in difficulty, discomfort,  
9 and embarrassment for the Plaintiff, the Defendants are also responsible for statutory damages,  
10 i.e., a civil penalty, at statutory minimum of \$4000. See Civil Code § 55.56(a)-(c).

11                   **IV.     FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION: GENERAL NEGLIGENCE**  
12                                   **(On behalf of Plaintiff and against all Defendants)**

13                   19. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all prior  
14 paragraphs of this complaint.

15                   20. Defendants have a general duty and a duty of due care to the disabled Plaintiff,  
16 arising under the ADA and Unruh Civil Rights Act and California Disabled Persons Act, to  
17 provide safe, convenient, and accessible facilities to the disabled Plaintiff. Their negligent  
18 violation of this duty, as alleged in the preceding paragraphs of this complaint, notably  
19 Paragraphs 1 through 12, and also their violation of statutes, namely, 42 U.S. Code § 12101 et  
20 seq., and also including California Civil Code §§ 51, 52, 54 and 54.1, has caused inconvenience,  
21 injury and damage as alleged, in the amount of at least minimal amounts of damages allowed by  
22 applicable statutes, the exact amount to be determined at the trial.

23                   WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays that this court award damages and provide relief  
24 against all named Defendants, jointly and severally, as follows:

25                   1. For mandatory injunctive relief, compelling Defendants jointly and severally to  
26 comply with the Americans with Disability Act and the California Unruh Civil Rights Act, fully  
27 correcting all violations of the requirements of these laws, within six months of being served  
28 with process, namely, summons and complaint, in this action, and that said Defendants be

1 required to report to Plaintiff and also to the court of actual status of correction of the defects  
2 charged in this complaint, on the next day after the six month period is done.

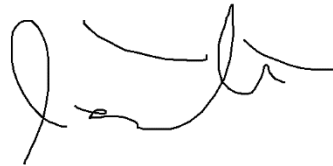
3 2. For damages under the Unruh Civil Rights Act and/or the California Disabled Persons  
4 Act where applicable, which statutes provide for actual damages and a statutory minimum of  
5 \$4,000. If the Plaintiff cannot recover under both Unruh and DPA, simultaneously, an election  
6 will be made prior to or at trial, at an appropriate stage in these legal proceedings.

7 3. For damages for general negligence, in the amount of at least minimal amounts  
8 of damages allowed by applicable statutes, or alternatively \$4000, the exact amount to be  
9 determined at trial.

10 4. For reasonable attorneys' fees, litigation expenses and costs of suit, pursuant to 42 U.S.  
11 Code § 12205; Cal Civil Code §§ 52 and 54.3 and Cal Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5.

12 5. For such other and further relief as the court deems just and proper.

13 Dated: 6/16/2023



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14 Joseph Bakhos, Esq.  
15 Attorney for Plaintiff  
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